


# In fact

*For The Millions Who Want a Free Press*

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## Announcement

REGRETFULLY we announce that beginning with this issue a cheaper, therefore greyer, paper will be used in IN FACT. Bond paper, with the development of the US defense program, is rapidly becoming unobtainable, and the use of cheaper paper will mean a difference of 15% in our printing costs. This is the difference between being self-sustaining and operating at a loss.

For those who want to preserve their copies IN FACT will print a bond paper edition which will be bound with an index every 6 months. The price, due mostly to clerical salary for handling, will be: each index 5¢; bound volumes, ½-yearly (26 issues): \$2.00.

IN FACT is not a profit-making publication. Its incorporation papers prevent anyone from making a profit. When surpluses occur they will be used to print pamphlets, books; when big money is made, it will be used to start a daily address independent truthful newspaper without an editorial policy or editorial page.

IN FACT will continue to give its readers the news suppressed or perverted in the commercial or standard press. There will be no change in policy. Many of the exposés now begun have been in the works for months.

## Gen. Marshall Exposed

WE are able in this issue to state as a fact that Gen Geo C Marshall, Chief of Staff, US Army, is the mysterious "well-informed opinion," the "high military authority," the "military circles" or "experts" credited by almost all the newspapers of America with sensational anti-Russian statements.

While the less reliable news services and Washington correspondents wrote stories which carried flaming predictions of complete Hitler victory over Russia in a few days or 2 weeks, the more conservative Associated Press reported that "well-informed opinion" predicted "a smashing German victory within a month." The AP (June 23) concluded that "should the Nazi invasion succeed in a month, it was believed that time might remain for an all-out attempt to conquer England this year."

For several days more stories aimed to discourage British and US aid to Russia appeared in US press credited to an unnamed Washington authority. Most sensational was John O'Donnell's (June 26) saying: "Hitler will win where Napoleon failed." US and British aid "will not save the Red army from a swift destruction at the hands of Germany." This was credited to "an authoritative report . . . being studied by the highest Gov't officials." It was headlined in NY Daily News: "ONLY GOD CAN SAVE REDS."

**Secret of Why France Fell Key to Present War**.....Page 1

**20,000,000 Americans Fooled by Life Magazine**.....Page 3

**T**WO important developments in the new phase of the war, with Hitler enlisting all Fascist nations on his side, and the industrial situation in America, with all reactionary elements united against labor, make the situation in America almost parallel to that of French democracy at the time it also was preparing for war.

For exactly one year almost all the newspapers of the United States, dozens of Congressmen, the news reels, the March of Time, the magazines subsidized by Big Business through advertising, the majority of news commentators, in short all the forces which make public opinion in America, have falsified the story of why France fell.

All these elements draw a moral lesson for America. Most of the lessons are directed against democracy, against any New Deal, against progressive ideas and against gains for labor.

At this very date newspapers, magazines, movies, speakers are still falsifying the story of France in order to propagandize the American people, change their thinking, influence their actions. The July issue of the Ladies Home Journal; a June 21 syndicated column sent out by one of America's three leading enemies of labor (Roy Howard of United Press and Scripps Howard papers); the just-issued pamphlet of the US Chamber of Commerce, "What's Ahead for America," continue by propaganda or half-truths to add to the outright falsehoods which have flooded America.

IN FACT in this and a succeeding issue will present the facts.

## Political-Military Fact of First Importance

The chief falsehood which official statistics and reliable documentation expose is that labor was to blame for the fall of France. Those who blame the Popular Front, which represented the equivalent of the US New Deal, are the chief falsifiers. Before IN FACT devotes the rest of its space to the proofs dealing with labor and defense, the political-military angle can be disposed of.

France was faced with the question of whether or not to collaborate with Russia, a question which today is significant for the US and Britain.

Pertinax (Andre Geraud) who enjoys the distinction of being called the only non-bribeable journalist of France, explaining the collapse of his country says: "The fear of radical social changes that war seemed likely to bring in its trail has preyed tremendously upon the propertied classes ever since 1918."

The mutual defense pact with the Soviets was feared by the propertied classes. On the newspaper kiosks the present editor of IN FACT read in 1937 "Mieux Hitler que Blum": "Better Hitler than Blum." The French ruling class and their fascists preferred Hitler to a popular front coalition; they were 100% against any defense pact with Russia.

When France fell Lloyd George wrote that the defeat was due to "Parties of the Right which preferred the extinction of liberty in Central Europe to association with Russia. . . . The Spanish policy pursued by the British and French gov'ts was the beginning of the tremendous defeat of the democratic countries we have been witnessing."—London Sunday Pictorial, June 30, 1940.

The General, military expert of the newspaper PM, says France fell because "France's one written military alliance with a major power—the mutual assistance treaty with the USSR—was subjected to every kind of attack, from domestic Rightists to Berlin diplomatic pressure."

## Ambassador Bullitt Held Responsible

As IN FACT said in an exclusive story (Sept 9 1940) after its editor had read the original manuscript of the diary of Ambassador to Berlin William E Dodd, later confirmed with quotations from this great book (Feb 24 1941):

"William C Bullitt as much as any other man living or dead is responsible . . . for the collapse of the French Republic.

"For 6 years Bullitt has been America's leading intriguer in Europe. . . . Bullitt, as American ambassador abroad, succeeded in doing these things:



"1) He helped smash the Franco-Soviet pact. At one time he boasted of it.

"2) He misled the French authorities with false stories about the Soviet armed forces.

"3) He worked in Paris against the Popular Front . . . collaborated with the 200 Families which turned out to be the French Fifth Column."

IN FACT stated that when Bullitt became ambassador to France after his service in Moscow, he informed Petain, Weygand, Daladier, Laval and others that the Russian army was no good, that it was useless to make a pact because the Russians would not keep it, that parachute troops were a joke, that it was a good idea to place a large army in Syria to use for an invasion of Russia.

"Ambassador Dodd's Diary" was the source of much of this information. Dodd was aware that while Bullitt was still ambassador to Moscow he was intriguing in Berlin with Francois-Poncet, French ambassador to Berlin, to prevent the Franco-Soviet pact and later to form a Franco-German pact to fight Russia. Dodd protested Bullitt's "lending encouragement to these schemes" of financing the two fascist nations, Italy and Germany.

Bullitt's advice was accepted by Daladier, Reynaud, Petain, and the 200 Families who ruled France. On Bullitt's advice the Franco-Soviet pact was scrapped. Now everyone admits that there might not have been a war and certainly no immediate victory for Germany if the Bullitt advice had not become the French national policy.

According to "Labor," organ of railroad brotherhoods, Bullitt gave the House Judiciary Committee, "as one cause of the French breakdown . . . the social reforms such as the 40-hour week, instituted by the Popular Front government in 1936. These he admitted were 'long overdue' but he claimed they 'reduced production' at a time when France should have been increasing its output to meet Nazi threats."

"Labor" continues: "This claim was shattered, however, by the (US) Department of Labor. It made an exhaustive study which showed that production rose noticeably during the Popular Front period.

"It would have risen faster, the Department said, if the French industrialists had been willing to spend more money to modernize their outofdate equipment." Mr Bullitt of the State Department did not care to get the facts from Mme Perkins of the Labor Department.

## The Truth: Production Rose Under Popular Front

The facts which Bullitt might have obtained from our own Department of Labor or the statistical department of the League of Nations, or numerous books issued by later reactionary and anti-Popular Front French governments, would have shown that all production, including defense production, airplanes, etc, rose under the French New Deal which gave labor just about what the Wagner Act gives it in America.

Living costs were up in 1936 (as they are in the US in 1941); wages were depressed by unemployment; labor was organizing; farmers were in a bad way. As in America today the business leaders sought a free hand, preached rugged individualism and free enterprise.

Leon Blum, the socialist who headed the Popular Front, tried to make a deal between capital and labor, just as Mr Roosevelt did. He got the 40-hour week, an average 12% raise in wages, collective bargaining, some better working conditions.

But Melvin M Fagen, US Relief Administrator in France, shows (in two articles, New Republic, Sept 2, 9, 1940) that the 40-hour week was flexible; overtime was allowed (in mining it was 44 hours; in aircraft, after March 1938, 45 without overtime pay). "This improvement was equal only to the increase in the cost of living, it was not a real revolution in the status of labor." It merely maintained the low standard of living in France.

"Examination of the general index of production by months from Jan 1936 to Aug 1939 shows that French industry produced more goods more quickly during the Popular Front (PF) regime than it did at least 6 months before or 20 months after. . . . In Oct 1936 there came a spurt in productive output which ended only when, in 1938, Daladier took the reins. . . . The wages and hours legislation was followed by a 20% increase in output for the first half of 1937 as compared with 1936.

(Average index, 1928 base)			
Gov't	first ½ of	Gen'l Industrial	Metallurgy
Laval . . . . .	1936	85.9%	69.1%
Popular Front (Blum) . . . . .	1937	91.5	83.1
Chautemps-Daladier . . . . .	1938	84.1	71.8
Daladier-Reynaud . . . . .	1939	94.	86.8

Metal manufacture, says Fagen, "is the primary guide to the potential war strength of a country." In the first 5 months of 1937, with 40-hour week, wages up about 30%, the metal production index averaged 90, a 17% increase. "The average index of monthly production in metal manufactures is seen to be almost 18% higher under Blum than it was under Daladier more than a year later. . . . While hours worked fell by 5% the output of industry increased by 3%, a rise

## In Fact's News Sources

NO one can predict the war's outcome. Experts disagree. But the action of America's Chief of Staff in calling in 100 leading Washington correspondents and handing out a story which has helped Hitlerism, is one of the most sensational news events of this war. IN FACT has the original AP copy with this warning note to newspaper editors not to mention Marshall's name: Gen Marshall "stipulated that it (the defeatist story) must not be attributed to him or the War Dep't in any way."

June 2 IN FACT exposed the Dep't of Agriculture's series of confidential memoranda to its agents to arouse war fears among farmers with an "invasion within 90-days" story.

July 15 1940 IN FACT published a summary of an address which Wendell Willkie made to National Press Club, Washington, in which he advocated open Fascism; for example, business to run gov't, not gov't to run business, in America.

News such as this and the exposé of Gen Marshall in the act of giving comfort and aid to the Axis, whose annihilation is pledged by Marshall's superior officer, the commander-in-chief, namely FDR, comes to IN FACT from newspapermen who do not believe it a breach of journalistic ethics to tell such facts for the general benefit of the American people.

## What Are the Facts?

ACCORDING to Ambassador Bullitt the Russian army was no good. For this reason he urged France to repudiate Franco-Russian treaty. According to Max Werner, author of "Battle for the World" (Modern Age Books) explaining the military situation for laymen, the Russian army is very powerful. According to a Berlin statement appearing in most US papers June 29 "the reports of German frontline soldier correspondents indicate that the Russians have offered such stubborn resistance that it borders on the fanatical." According to NY Times editorial the Russian soldiers do not know anything. According to war correspondents in Spain such as Hemingway, Sheean, Jay Allen, the Russians there, aviators and tankmen (there were about 700 Russians in Spain) were politically enlightened. According to United Press London dispatch June 28 British military experts believe "that Russia may be able to twist Adolf Hitler's blitzkrieg awry." IN FACT has never been able to afford an objective correspondent such as Duranty who could write authoritatively on this controversial subject.

## Duranty's View

AT the U of Chicago Round Table on Russia (June 29) Prof Samuel N Harper of U of C and Walter Duranty were asked dozens of pointblank questions. Harper said the Russian army was strong, patriotic; Duranty said it was "tough," well-disciplined. He said the march into Finland was begun with banners and bands, awaiting Finnish uprising; later the Russians marshalled real forces and smashed the Mannerheim line. The planes are older models, but "the Russians were the first to use parachute troops, the first to use heavy tanks; they are now in positions they have been preparing 7 years." The moderator summed up by saying that Russian morale was high and "you, Duranty, believe the army may surprise the military experts."



## Religious Complication

THIS war is further complicated (as was the French refusal to maintain its military treaty with Russia) by religious controversy. In World War I the French army was split over religion, Foch being a devout Catholic, Sarrail a devout anti-Clerical, Freemason and Socialist; Pétain being a Catholic temporarily out of the Church because of marriage to a divorcée; Joffre being anti-Clerical. Sarrail told the present editor of IN FACT (at time of bombardment of Damascus, Syrian war, 1926-7) that the religious war within the French army almost ruined it in 1914. Sarrail himself was a victim of it later, being demoted when clericals gained control.

Press recognition of religious controversy in present war (with Hitler, enemy of Catholic church, and Mussolini, professed atheist and author of booklet entitled "Dieu n'existe pas," or "God Does Not Exist," running a "Christian crusade") appears in NY Times June 29. Washington correspondent Arthur Krock declares that Roosevelt's difficulties are complicated by many factors, including religion, for which "some clarification... may be found in the Pope's radio address." Managing Editor James stated that "the Catholic church bells rang in Germany when Hitler started Moscowward." Simultaneously (June 29, page 10) appeared a story headed "CATHOLIC GROUPS DIVIDED ON RUSSIA; 15 Clergymen and Laymen say Hitler must be stopped even by siding with Reds."

(IN FACT reports foregoing as important facts, developments to watch; but takes no sides in controversies.)

## What Reporters Believe

FROM its first issue IN FACT has told laymen what newspaper men say, think, believe. Usually this news has been just the opposite of what the newspapers print. The press, for example, is 92% anti-labor (as poll of labor press confirmed) whereas newspapermen are at least 92% pro-labor.

The American Newspaper Guild in annual convention, Detroit, this week passed resolutions condemning the use of US troops against labor, and anti-labor legislation now flooding Congress. It supported the right to strike. It endorsed, with 1 dissenting vote, the right of city employees to strike on the NY subways, and "condemned the anti-labor stand of Mayor LaGuardia," once believed one of labor's greatest friends.

The Guild gave its Broun Memorial Award to Tom O'Connor of PM for his mine-safety articles. This contrasts with the Pulitzer award to Westbrook Pegler who after attacking Scalise and other racketeers, attacked the 11,000,000 other Americans in organized labor.

Heywood Broun, Guild founder, hoped that within his lifetime he would erase the phrase "prostitution," more closely

in productivity per hour worked of 8%.

And here is the average monthly index of production for the metal and auto industries:

Blum	Oct 36-June 37 .....	88
Chautemps	July 37-Mar 38 .....	85
Daladier	Apr 38-Dec 38 .....	75

## Men of Wealth and Power Ruined France

Mr Fagen has numerous official statistics making it a historical fact that it was not strikes nor the 40-hour week, nor all the labor gains such as American labor has enjoyed in the past 8 years, that resulted in inadequate defense.

One of the main reasons for France's failure to arm was not lack of production but lack of orders. The men who owned the armaments works refused to enlarge them. These same men also were able to get the French Chamber of Deputies to refrain from voting big defense budgets because they did not want to pay the taxes.

The PF was one of the greatest anti-Fascist forces ever known. It was similar to the Frente Popular of Spain which fought Franco, Hitler and Mussolini. The French PF was willing to work and spend money to prepare against Hitler. Big Business, the ruling class, the 200 Families, their agents in the Chamber of Deputies, were for appeasement and collaboration with Hitler. When the PF prepared its defense armaments budget, "the news that the gov't was about to spend billions on defense was greeted with horror by those Frenchmen whose eyes were glued to the daily bond quotations. The NY Federal Reserve Bank within 3 days after the announcement of the defense program, received for safekeeping almost \$20,000,000 in French gold. During the month of Sept (1936) enough French capital had fled to the US alone to cover one-half of the entire cost of constructing the defenses along the Belgian front" (Fagen).

Money fled France again under Chautemps in 1938. March 9 the NY Times reported that the French franc was in trouble, had reached its lowest in 12 years, due to "the proposal of Chautemps gov't to seek approval of a financial plan involving... 15,000,000,000 francs for national defense." Here hidden on the financial pages of our newspapers was one of the biggest facts explaining why France fell. France did not have armaments because the men who owned France did not want to spend their money; not because French labor struck for a few cents more an hour. The "troubles of the franc," which the Times noted, meant sabotage by Big Business.

Blum was overthrown because his financial plans were unacceptable to the 200 Families, the Comité des Forges, the handful of wealth and power which corrupted the press and the legislature. Chautemps, one of their own men, was overthrown because he wanted to spend money on armaments. Daladier was a better friend of the moneyed interests. He did not spend their money for armaments.

All this time, of course, the French Right, which was anti-Popular Front, was commercially, politically and militarily involved in deals with Hitler. The iron and chemicals necessary for French rearmament were sent to Germany. The Right believed that it was better to arm Germany than France. Many of these Rightists were not traitors; they were "patriots" who believed that Hitler would protect France from Russia, and ask nothing in return.

The three main reasons why France fell, as stated by Pierre Cot, air minister in PF gov't, are:

- 1) The greed of the defense industry and the bankers for profits.
- 2) The activities of politicians sympathetic to Hitler.
- 3) The presence of army generals too old to learn new methods.

The first reason is the most important. Wealth and power, the rush for profits which sabotaged defense, and notably airplane defense, are blamed by M Cot.

Nevertheless, when he turned in his report Dec 1 1937, after serving 19 months, M Cot informed France that: aircraft in service had increased 40%; aircraft in construction had increased 120%; the air fleet had doubled its striking power; its engine power had increased 6 times.

In 1938 there was an increase of a third in the number of aircraft workers; Jan 1939 output was down to 40 to 60 planes a month, or less than under the Popular Front of June 1937.

(To be continued in next issue.)

## Are You Moving?

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## 20,000,000 Americans Fooled by Life Magazine

THE charge has often been made (and proven) that the American press—chiefly the big city, big money newspapers with a possible exception of 1% or 2%—is the exception to Lincoln's dictum that you can't fool all the people all the time. The evidence against the popular magazines is even more substantial.

In previous issues of IN FACT, for example, we presented the evidence that Colliers is directed by J P Morgan & Co and gave examples of its fake stories (June 3 1940; fake story against WPA). In our "Saturday Evening Post adopts a Murderer" (Feb 10) we showed the fakes charged against maritime labor which this magazine refused to correct.

Luce's Life now claims 3,000,000 circulation, 20,000,000 readers. In its May



26 issue the main story was devoted to proving to the American people that the typical small American town agreed with Henry Luce's interventionist foreign policy. Evidence shows that this is a falsehood. The Life story covered 10 pages; we doubt if Life, which fooled its 20,000,000 readers, will devote 10 lines to setting the record straight.

Life's headline, May 26, on its big feature by St Clair McKelway read:

"NEOSHO. Visiting this small and peaceful town in Missouri, Life's reporter investigates its feeling on the war and finds most of its citizens are for intervention."

Of Neosho (population 5,000) McKelway said: "It is a place that looks and feels and sounds and smells like America. It is not Thomas Jefferson's America or Walter Winchell's, not Lincoln's or Lindbergh's, not Miss Dorothy Thompson's or Senator Wheeler's or the CIO's or the Warner Brothers', not Roy W Howard's or the Daily Worker's or Henry Ford's." He might have added it was also not Life's nor St Clair McKelway's. The facts prove it.

McKelway says he came to Neosho "to try to find out what the town was doing about the war and how the townspeople felt about it." Today Neosho believes that the representative of Life came to their town with his mind made up in advance that he would find it in agreement with the viewpoint of his employer. His report concludes: "Neosho must be as nearly independent a community, politically, as you could find in the US and this may be significant in view of Neosho's apparently almost unanimous interventionist sentiment. . . . The people of Neosho are conservative. . . . They are madder at the CIO at this moment than they are at almost anything else. . . . Letters to the editors of the local papers have suggested everything from deportation to trial for treason for men who strike in the war industries. Attempts have been made by labor unions to organize the workers in the milk plants and the little factories and the workers have always voted against organizing. Their wages are scarcely above the minimum allowed by law, yet they will tell you almost to a man that they want 'none of that damn, radical CIO business in this town—we're independent, we know our rights and we get 'em without walking out or sitting down or none of that bullying foolishness.'"

McKelway did not indicate that the editors of Life apparently picked Neosho out of ten thousand small US towns because it lacked organized labor and was "conservative about almost everything." The story was well-illustrated with "typical" two-story Southern mansions set in spacious grounds. In a 5,000-word story of a Southern town, Negroes were not mentioned.

## Whole Town Polled to Disprove Life Story

Some Neosho citizens, the local press reported, were "outraged" because they were made to talk "hick" talk, others didn't like the choice of photos. One prominent citizen said: "The representative for Life magazine came here with an opinion he wanted to verify, that the majority of the people in our middle-western towns are for war."

The Springfield (Mo) Leader & Press decided to poll the citizens of Neosho: a real poll, not merely a sampling. The ballots asked: "Do you favor United States entry into the European war?" (Note: the poll was taken a month before Hitler invaded Russia.) The latest city directory showed 3,153 adults. That many ballots were sent. The statistics of the Neosho poll are:

Ballots voted .....	994
No .....	692
Yes .....	276
Uncertain .....	26
Percentage against war.....	69.6

This is not the first time Life has fooled its 20,000,000 readers. Some time ago it ballyhooed "Cap" Rieber and Texaco Oil in 11 pages. It left out the fact that Rieber was a labor-hater, that the National Maritime Union had had Rieber's company up before the Labor Board for violating the Wagner Act.

When a Nazi agent named Gerhardt Westrick was exposed by the NY Herald Tribune it was shown that trading with the enemy was engineered by Westrick and Rieber; Rieber was exposed as a pro-Nazi, an enemy of democracy, a first class American fascist. Life magazine thereupon printed a paragraph on the Westrick exposé, suppressed the name of Rieber. Texaco is a big advertiser.

We are constantly receiving letters from subscribers who want to know how they can help In Fact reach that ¼ million circulation by Jan 1942. The best answers come from the subscribers themselves. We intend to reprint them from week to week.

## (SUGGESTION) FOR ALL VACATIONERS AND (NUMBER 2) WORKERS IN SUMMER CAMPS

"To increase your circulation you might ask your readers who go on vacation, live in summer camp colonies or work at the summer resorts to help promote In Fact. You could send them sample copies and your circulars and where possible one of your posters. Thus thousands of people would see your newsletter and subscribe where otherwise they would not. Last summer I met a tennis instructor in one of the camps who got over 150 subscriptions for In Fact in less than two months. Don't you think there might be others like him?"—J. L., New York City.

(In Fact will send sample copies, circulars and posters on request)

associated with newspaper work than any other profession.

The newspaper PM (June 26) published a remarkable story quoting an editorial from Colliers May 10 urging US to "help Great Britain to the hilt" and to use convoys; also an editorial, NYDNews (May 23), against aid to Britain by convoys which would mean "Americans waging war on non-belligerent men, women and children." PM suspected that editorial writer Reuben Maury, who once won the Pulitzer prize, was the author of both. (Colliers, directed by J P Morgan & Co, was for intervention from war's start; News, owned by ex-socialist Patterson, was for appeasing Japan, raising a race of brutes for war purposes, "two ships for one" and isolation.)

Maury, in a letter to PM, admitted writing both, declared "I do not pretend to be anything but a newspaper hired man . . . My job . . . is . . . to do the best work I can for anybody. . . ." A threat of a libel suit concluded his letter to PM. Maury is a Guild member, attacks the Guild from within, just as Pegler red-baits it from without.

## State of the Nation

HOW many unemployed are there today—when billions are being spent for arms, corporation dividends are soaring, the cost of living rises and a wartime boom gets under way?

The Economic Outlook, published by the CIO, says: 9,574,000.

National Industrial Conference Board, June 2: 5,412,000.

"Labor," railroadmen's organ: "Between 6,000,000 and 9,000,000.

Howard Myers, research director, Federal WPA: 6,500,000.

The CIO Economic Outlook explains why there is little decrease in unemployment despite the tremendously increased war program and the expenditure of anywhere up to \$40,000,000,000. In the past 10 years there has been further tremendous increase in labor-saving machinery; there is increased productivity for every workman employed; there has been a speed-up in industry.

The American workingman in 1940 produced 11% more than in 1937. His wages, incidentally, increased only 4%. He produced 41% more per man than in 1929 but his wages increased only 24%. Corporations, not labor, have profited.

Today 45,000,000 Americans have inadequate diets because their wages are too low. "Three-fourths of the non-farm families of the US are getting along on poor or only fair diets. During the depression years we became accustomed to having 20 to 25 million persons on relief; today we still have 15,000,000 dependent on public assistance."—Paul V McNutt, Federal Security Administrator at National Nutrition Conference for Defense.

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